



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

April 2012

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

The NH DOE is offering three half day sessions at the Sugar River Professional Development Center (SRPDC) on May 14th and 15th and at the Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) on May 21st and 22nd. One session will focus on the eight Common Core Messages developed by the NH DOE that help to capture an overview of the Common Core State Standards and investigate resources and tools available to use with staff in order to conduct discussions and work relating to implementation of CCSS. An implementation framework will be shared during this session. The other two sessions take a closer look at the Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects. To register and for more information go to www.srpdc.com/ or www.k12opensource.org/spdc/.

Contact: Joseph Miller (603) 271-3594, Joseph.Miller@doe.nh.gov

B. Technology Readiness Tool

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) have contracted with Pearson to develop a Technology Readiness Tool to support states' planning as they transition to next-generation assessments to be launched in spring of 2015. This new tool assesses current school capacity and compares that to the technology that will be needed to administer the new online assessments in four areas—devices, device to tester ratio, network infrastructure, and staff and personnel. The first of six data collection windows will be April 2 through June 14, 2012. Subsequent data collection windows will occur once each spring and fall through 2014. A copy of the letter that was sent to principals can be found at www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/index.htm#tool.

Contact: Stan Freeda (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov or
Joseph Miller (603) 271-3594, Joseph.Miller@doe.nh.gov

CERTIFICATION

A. Alternative 4 or Alternative 5 Plans

If any districts have educators who are on their second year of Alternative 5 or their third year of Alternative 4 plans please be aware that their completed plans are due not later than June 30, 2012 as after that date they are no longer eligible for an intern license and it will be rescinded. They must have a recommendation that their plan is completed to be eligible for a beginning educator credential.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

B. Emergency Permission to Employ

Just a reminder that Emergency Permission to Employ is for emergency situations and for educators who are not certified and is good for no longer than one year.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

C. Online Renewal

Employed educators who are due to renew by June 30, 2012 are encouraged to renew on-line as it has a much quicker turn-around time.

Contact: Lisa Landenberger, (603) 271-2409, Lisa.Landenberger@doe.nh.gov.

D. Statement of Eligibility (SOE)

As you are entering the hiring process for next year please be sure that any candidates that you are considering for Alternative 4, critical shortage or career/technical areas or Alternative 5 have a SOE in the area of certification that they are being considered for and will be teaching in that area.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. Course and Class Assignments

Please note that all schools must submit the assignments for all staff along with student rosters (via i4see and/or EIS). The Educator Information System (EIS) will be the source for New Hampshire's HQT data for the 2011-2012 school year.

Contact: Cyndy Currier at ccurrier@mac.com for help with data submissions
i4see.help@doe.nh.gov for general questions

B. i4see**a) NH Alt Registration**

The i4see workbench is accepting NH-Alt registrations for students doing the Alternative Assessments. The window will close on May 4, 2012. School districts should register all students participating in alternative assessments who are the responsibility of the district, no matter where they attend school.

b) Spring NECAP Labels

The i4see workbench will be open for the second round of spring NECAP Science Labels from April 9 through May 1, 2012. Please remember to use the submission type NECAPspr in the second column of these uploads. These files only need to be batch verified. CERTIFICATION of NECAPspr is not needed.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, i4see.help@doe.nh.gov

C. MS-22 Forms (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted)

A completed Form MS-22 (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted) for each school district must be forwarded to the Bureau of Data Management within 20 days of the close of the school district meeting as required by RSA 198:4-a, II. Note: Copies of the school district meeting minutes, warrant articles and the results of all votes taken should also be forwarded to the Bureau.

Contact: Ron Leclerc, (603) 271-3876, Ron.Leclerc@doe.nh.gov

D. School Board Members

In accordance with RSA 671:31 the forms that were sent out to update information about school board members are due back to the Bureau of Data Management by May 1. Please be sure to include the new term expiration dates and chairperson(s).

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

E. School District Calendars

Please be sure to send your district's 2012-2013 calendar to the Bureau of Data Management as soon as it is accepted. These are due by May 1, 2012.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

F. Teacher Salary Schedules

As soon as the teacher contract has been approved for your school district, please forward a copy to the Bureau of Data Management.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

G. 2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection

The US Department of Education (ED) 2011-12 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) has started. This is a universal collection from all LEAs, schools and state-operated facilities (e.g. schools for the deaf and blind and other facilities for individuals with disabilities and juvenile justice facilities).

- The CRDC Advance Web site (www.crdc2011.org) has opened. ED requested every district to access the site by March 15, 2012, to provide district contact information and update the school list.
- Every district's Log in ID and Password information was included in the January 3rd letter from ED, mailed to each district via USPS.
- The submission of CRDC data will be in the August/September to December 2012 time frame.

If you need any information (including your district's Log in ID and Password), or if you have any questions about the 2011-12 CRDC, please contact the CRDC Partner Support Center at: EDEN_CRDC@ed.gov or (855) 320-6459, TTY/TDD: 888-403-3336.

FUNDING

A. Fuel-Operated Heaters For School Buses

Funds are currently available from the Department of Environmental Services (DES)-Air Resources Division to provide fuel-operated heaters to municipal school bus operators and private operators under contract with NH school districts. These heaters use only a small amount of fuel to maintain engine and passenger comfort heat while the bus is not running, thus eliminating the need for long warm up periods and other idling. Funding is provided via the Environmental Protection Agency's Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program.

For more information go to

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/categories/grants.htm> and click on the Diesel

Vehicle and Equipment link or contact Felice Janelle, Mobile Sources Supervisor at (603) 271-4848 or <mailto:felice.janelle@des.nh.gov>.

B. School Facilities

- a) Legislation is in progress to revise the School Building Aid program after the end of the current moratorium. We plan to provide training sessions for SAUs and school board members at several locations around the State once we have a better feeling for the new program. We anticipate too many requests to allow us to attend individual school board meetings to provide this information.
- b) Please submit Form A24F and any other missing documentation as soon as construction projects are complete. We cannot make the final payment on any project with missing documentation.
- c) Annual Project Status Reports have been sent to all SAUs. Signed forms were due back by March 16th.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. State Institutions Career and Technical Education Projects

The NH Department of Education seeks applications for grants to create, expand, or improve career and technical education, and other occupational skill development programs, for either of two populations: 1) incarcerated juveniles and/or adult offenders or 2) individuals with disabilities. From \$50,000 to \$60,000, or 1% of the State grant under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, are available for one-year grants. Project funds are 100% federal. Deadline for proposals is May 7, 2012.

Contact: Laurie MacRae, (603) 271-3888, Laurie.Macrae@doe.nh.us

B. Supplemental Educational Support and Technical Assistance for Students of the Migrant Education Program (NHMEP).

The New Hampshire Department of Education is seeking proposals for a statewide program to provide supplemental educational services to the NHMEP. The NHMEP which provides supplemental educational services to highly mobile students, who have unique educational needs, has been awarded an additional grant to assist in the provision of direct services to these students. These programs and services are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of the participating students. The goal of this statewide project is to provide individual or small group instruction, child and family advocacy, and instructional material and resources to the targeted population. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: Thursday, April 12, 2012.

Contact: Barbara Patch, (603) 271-2273, barbara.patch@doe.nh.gov

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

This section applies to both public and non-public schools

- A. School approval packets for private schools whose approval expires June 30, 2012 were due back by February 1, 2012.
- B. Fire and health inspection reports are due by April 30th from all schools, public and private, whose approval expires June 30, 2012.
- C. Schools conditionally approved in 2011 should submit documentation of compliance as soon as possible. Schools that have previously been conditionally approved for three years, and that are still not meeting all requirements, will be required to request a Delay in Full Compliance from the State Board in person.
- D. All public schools are required to complete the accountability survey in the Inputs Based Accountability System this year. The survey is located in the MyNHDOE single sign-on system. A number of schools have still not completed the survey which was due by January 13th. RSA 193-E requires the Department to report to the legislature starting this year. Schools that do not complete the survey will be reported as “not providing the opportunity for an adequate education.”
- E. Many elementary schools have indicated in the accountability survey that they are not maintaining digital portfolios for students below grade 8. The Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) standard requires students to demonstrate proficiency by the end of grade 8, but it is a K-8 standard. Please see Technical Assistance Advisory #2 for guidance (www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm).

Contact: Leslie Higgins, 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov
Marie Morgan, 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

SCHOOL LUNCH

A. Contracting For Food Services

If you are considering contracting with a Food Service Management Company for the upcoming school year, please contact the Bureau of Nutrition Programs and Services for regulations governing these contracts. In addition, please note that any prior contact with a single food service management contractor could bar them from the request for proposal process.

Contact: Cheri White, (603) 271-3860, Cheri.White@doe.nh.gov or
Kathryn Hodges, (603) 271-3861, Kathryn.Hodges@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. Facilitator Program

The *IEP Facilitator Program*, coordinated by the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, trains and certifies volunteers to act as NH DOE Special Education team facilitators. Facilitators, at the request of a district or parent(s) and with both

in agreement, attend an IEP (Individual Education Plan) meeting on school grounds and facilitate the meeting for all parties involved.

Volunteers must successfully complete the training for this program, agree to facilitate a minimum of eight team meetings over the 24 month period following the training, and maintain the confidentiality of information provided to them. Once certified as a NH DOE Facilitator, volunteers cannot represent themselves as a NH DOE Facilitator in facilitations that have not been arranged by the Bureau of Special Education. The next training is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2012 at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library, Barnstead, NH (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

Contact: Pamela Lindberg, (603) 271-1536, Pamela.Lindberg@doe.nh.gov

B. Surrogate Parent Program

A volunteer program designed to provide a child with a disability with an educational surrogate parent to act as the child's educational decision-maker. As the educational decision-maker you would participate in a child's special education team meetings. Represent children whose parents are unavailable or unable to participate in the special education process; are not responsible for any financial costs or direct care of the child. Must be at least 21 years of age and complete an application that includes a background check. The NH DOE requires applicants to participate in a nine-hour training, which is offered at no cost to applicants. The training includes information on the special education process and related topics. (Professional Development credits are available for this training) Training Schedule : Saturday, May 19, 2012 at the Rye Public Library, Rye, NH (9-3pm); or Saturday, July 21, 2012 at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library, Barnstead, NH (9-5pm)

Contact: McKenzie Harrington, (603) 271-3739, McKenzie.Harrington@doe.nh.gov

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY

A. Food and Nutrition Services

The DOE has issued a technical assistance advisory pertaining to Food and Nutrition Services (advisory # 21). This advisory as well as previous advisories can be found on the Department's Web site at www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm.

Contact: Cheri White, (603) 271-3860, Cheri.White@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Building a System of Care Summit

Building a System of Care for New Hampshire Children is a statewide leadership summit to support student behavioral health. Summit attendees will receive training on cutting edge, evidence-based practices to improve outcomes for youth with emotional/behavioral disabilities. Attendees will also help mold an emerging statewide vision for children's mental health and participate in regional strategic planning conversations. This Summit will take place on April 17, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To register or for more information go to www.iod.unh.edu/Services/eventdetail/11-12-13/Building_a_System_of_Care_for_New_Hampshire_Children.aspx.

B. The Career Development Bureau is Offering Professional Development Opportunities**a) Using Computer Programming to teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Concepts**

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

8:30am – 2:30pm

Workshop Site: Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH

Participants will discuss “Is Computer Programming for Everyone?” Participants will work with Python to create and use lesson plans in STEM, Vector Forces and Graphics. Norm Messa, Computer Teacher at the Seacoast School of Technology, offers a wide range of knowledge and expertise to the day. Leave with comprehensive lesson plans to use in your classroom. Computers are provided. PDUs and Lunch are included.

b) Pre-Engineering Professional Development Day

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

8:30am-2:30pm

Workshop Site: Little Hall, NHTI, Concord, NH

A full day of activities are planned. Participants will hear from various teachers and presenters from pre-engineering organizations. Breakout sessions will be conducted with master teachers in EBD and PLTW courses to answer questions and gain deeper knowledge. Software workshops in Inventor, Solidworks, and Key Creator will be available. Different competitions, scholarships, and best practices across the state will be highlighted.

PDUs and Lunch is included.

c) New Hampshire Pathways To Prosperity Summit

Thursday, May 24, 2012

8:30am-1:00pm

Nashua Community College, Nashua, NH

The New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Career Development Bureau of the NH Department of Education are hosting a statewide conference on May 24 as part of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Pathways to Prosperity Project. Our goal of the conference is to help better prepare young people to enter careers in manufacturing in the Granite State. We will engage education and industry to ensure alignment with current realities and workforce needs of the advanced manufacturing industry. Attendees will be manufacturers from business and industry, superintendents, principals, CTE directors, career guidance and advanced manufacturing educators.

Contact: Lisa Danley, (603) 271-3867, lisa.danley@doe.nh.gov

C. OPEN NH Online Professional Development Courses

Registrations are now being accepted for the Spring Session of OPEN NH courses. The seven week, 35 hour online professional development courses began on April 4th and run through May 22nd. Districts can also request the special delivery of any of our courses over a 7-8 week time frame of their choice. To request a special delivery course, a designated team

leader should complete a Special Course Delivery Registration form, available online, and send it to the OPEN NH Project Coordinator for processing, or contact the coordinator.

OPEN NH offers a variety of group discounts for SAUs, districts, or schools. Deals include 25 seats in our seven week 35 hour online professional development courses for \$2,625 or 4 seats for 2 teachers for \$440. Complete list of courses running in the OPEN NH 2012 Sessions, as well as descriptions of all courses in the OPEN NH catalogue can be found on the Web site at www.opennh.org. OPEN NH is part of the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Teaching Enhancement courses for online course facilitation and online course development are available through the program. Visit the Web site for details. Graduate credits are available through Plymouth State University at additional cost.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

D. OPEN NH Self-Paced Tutorials

a) Bullying Awareness and Prevention

In an effort to assist schools in providing training for ALL school related employees, volunteers, substitute teachers and others, the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program and the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, both programs of the New Hampshire Department of Education, have developed a short online tutorial training on bullying awareness and prevention. This tutorial costs \$10.00 and covers basic issues surrounding bullying, the Impact of cyberbullying, and the requirements of the New Hampshire Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act. Participants will earn a Certificate of Completion for 3 hours of professional development that will satisfy the required basic training in bullying awareness and prevention. For more information and online registration, visit www.regonline.com/bullyingtutorial.

b) Substitute Teaching: Tools and Tips for Success

In an effort to assist schools in preparing potential substitute teachers for teaching in NH schools, the NH e-Learning for Educators, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education, is offering a short online tutorial through OPEN NH. This tutorial costs \$25.00 and provides basic knowledge and skills necessary for being an effective substitute teacher. Proper preparation before substituting in a school or district will greatly increase the confidence and comfort level of substitute teachers working with students in the classroom. The tutorial provides a brief overlook of education today and prepares potential substitutes with an understanding of how teachers and students interact in our changing educational landscape. Basic skills and techniques for teaching lessons to students along with some strategies for managing behavioral issues are explored. Finally, the tutorial covers a basic understanding of the kinds of policies and procedures that schools must operate under, including the NH pupil safety policy involving bullying. For more information and online registration, visit www.regonline.com/substitutetutorial.

Districts may register cohorts of teachers in the tutorial(s) at reduced cohort registration rates. For more information, visit www.opennh.org or contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

E. Indicator 8 Parent Survey Data Utilization

On Wednesday, May 2, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. the Bureau of Special Education in partnership with the Data Accountability Center (DAC) is offering a comprehensive day of training to districts regarding utilization of the Indicator 8 Parent Survey Data for program improvement. Participants will learn how New Hampshire's parent survey was developed, how parents' responses to the survey are analyzed and how these results are turned into the percentage that the State reports in its APR. This training will take place at Plymouth State University in Concord.

Contact: Terry Stafford, (603) 271-3720, Terry.Stafford@doe.nh.gov

F. Special Education, Accessible Instructional Materials (NHAIM), Workshops

Topic: NHAIM / The Importance of Braille Literacy

When: Friday, April 13, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: This presentation speaks to parents and school staff to help understand the importance of Braille Literacy for students.

Topic: NHAIM / The Digital Light Box

When: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Topic: NHAIM / Cortical Visual Impairment

When: Monday, April 30, 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Presenter: Christina Roman from APH

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: To help parents and educators gain a better understanding of Cortical Visual Impairment. Dr. Christina Roman is the APH Project Leader in the area of Cortical Visual Impairments. Chris, a well-known educator, author, and lecturer, has provided a number of National Instructional Partnerships events for APH in the area of CVI as it relates to APH products. She is a member of our CVI Synergy focus group, and was instrumental in helping us develop and refine the "FDB" (Functions at the Definition of Blindness) category in the Federal Quota Student Registration System.

Topic: NHAIM / Cortical Visual Impairment

When: Tuesday May 1, 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Presenter: Christina Roman from APH

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: To help parents and educators gain a better understanding of Cortical Visual Impairment. Dr. Christina Roman is the APH Project Leader in the area of Cortical Visual Impairments. Chris, a well-known educator, author, and lecturer, has provided a number of National Instructional Partnerships events for APH in the area of CVI as it relates to APH products. She is a member of our CVI Synergy focus group, and was instrumental in helping us develop and refine the "FDB" (Functions at the Definition of Blindness) category in the Federal Quota Student Registration System.

Topic: NHAIM / Book Port Plus

When: Friday, May 4, 2012 ~ 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

Description: Book Port Plus™ represents the latest generation of accessible media player/recorders. Its small size, quality recording, and unique capabilities make it an ideal replacement for cassette player/recorders, earlier Digital Talking Book (DTB) players, or inaccessible commercial digital recorders. Its specialized hardware and software makes Book Port Plus easier to use, more reliable, and more flexible than cell phones or PCs that might perform some of its functions.

All workshops will take place at the NHDOE in Room 15. Further information on products and presenters can be found at: www.aph.org.

Contact: Kerry Schmidt, (603) 271-0818, Kerry.Schmidt@doe.nh.gov

G. Save the Date ~ Seventh Annual APEX Summer Leadership Institute

The APEX Summer Leadership Institute, *Multi-tiered Systems of Support: Teamwork, Leadership, and Data-Based Decision-Making to Prepare Every Student for Career and Adult Life*, is designed for teams from middle and high schools to build their skills and knowledge in implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in order to improve their school culture and climate, improve student engagement, and produce higher graduation rates for all students. The Institute is also designed for students to build their personal and community leadership skills and to develop goals for their transition from school to adult life. Finally, the Institute offers an opportunity for policy makers, families, and community members to learn about the advantages of implementing PBIS and a three-tiered framework of school reform. This institute will take place August 15-16, 2012 at the Attitash Inn and Conference Center, Bartlett, NH. For the most updated information, visit www.iod.unh.edu/apexsi.

Contact: McKenzie Harrington, (603) 271-3739, McKenzie.Harrington@doe.nh.gov

H. NH Vocational Rehabilitation (NHVR) Transition Internship

Earn 3 graduate credits through Keene State College and receive a \$500 stipend from VR for completing the course. The NHVR Transition Internship for special education teachers and

coordinators, transition coordinators, and other school staff is designed to provide district personnel an opportunity to work closely with their local VR office and transition counselors. The project is intended to provide teachers with information regarding the VR program and process, adult agencies, employers' needs, labor market information, disability legislation, etc. Application packets are due by May. For more information visit www.education.nh.gov/career/vocational/index.htm.

Contact: Angela Keef, (603) 271-3804, Angela.Keef@doe.nh.gov

RESOURCES

A. US Department of Labor Publication

Ensuring women are prepared to succeed in a 21st century changing economy is critical to the financial stability of women and their families. The Bureau's newest publication "Why Green is Your Color: A Woman's Guide to a Sustainable Career" is a comprehensive manual designed to assist women with job training and career development as they enter new innovative and often nontraditional jobs. The Guide is available on the Women's Bureau website, www.dol.gov/wb/Green_Jobs_Guide. The Bureau also has very attractive posters and cards available upon request.

OTHER

2012 Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest

The Alcohol Awareness Poster Contest is open to all NH students in kindergarten through 12th grade, including those that are home-schooled. An outside panel of judges will review posters and selection will be based on the alcohol message, medium, and presentation. Consideration will also be given to the student's developmental level. Approximately 50 outstanding entries will be chosen and recognized at ceremony. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/recognition/other.htm or contact Greg Gagnon at 603-271-8531 or ggagnon@liquor.state.nh.us.

Earth Artists Program

The Paul G. Keough Earth Artists program is adapting to engage students and teachers of today on a broader spectrum. With technology where it is today, in addition to poem and posters, they encourage submissions of: photography, sculpture, architectural design, constructed models, video documenting musical or dramatic performance and more. The 2012 program is designed to promote an excitement for the arts; sciences and specifically environmental awareness in New England. They want to encourage young minds to combine a knowledge of nature (science) with sustainable thinking (design). Students should submit art work representing the project they have been working on. Participants can include a school class (kindergarten through 6th grade), youth organization, or an after school program. For an application or more information go to www.epa.gov/region1/students/poem.html. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2012.

Year of the Book Grant

The Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) is excited to announce this new grant program, created to support elementary schools (preschool – grade 6) in New Hampshire and Vermont that are working toward strengthening their literacy programs. The grant runs for one

academic year. Three eligible NH schools will receive more than \$20,000 worth of literacy programming and books, six literacy-related programs and 10 new, high-quality children's books for each elementary student to keep for their own (not to be part of the library collection). Deadline to apply for the 2012-2013 Year of the Book Grant deadline is Friday, April 20, 2012. Please contact CLiF Program Director, Suzanne Loring for more information or to request an application: Suzanne@clifonline.org or (802) 244-0944.

Archaeology Teacher Workshop

Teachers interested in adding archaeology to their teaching toolkits are invited to attend a Project Archaeology Teacher Workshop on Friday, April 20, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at St. Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH. Presented by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), the New Hampshire State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) and St. Gaudens, this teacher workshop offers hands-on interdisciplinary lessons in social studies, math, science, art, communication and language arts. It provides a means to increase environmental awareness, higher-level thinking skills, stewardship values and multi-cultural appreciation. Cost of course is \$45. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information visit:

www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/project_archaeology.html or call Tanya Krajcik at (603) 271-6568.

Common Core Math Workshop

Instructional Strategies and Models to Conquer the Math Common Core Curriculum will take place April 13th, at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. At this workshop participants will learn how to help students become more precise and fluent in explaining and applying math concepts, and more successful in their analysis and solving of real world problems.

Participants will also practice numerous strategies that can be easily implemented in their own classrooms. To register or for more information go to www.nhascd.net.

Leveraging Technology for Professional Learning, Teacher Effectiveness and Student Achievement

Learning Forward NH will host its 7th annual conference, *Leveraging Technology for Professional Learning, Teacher Effectiveness and Student Achievement* on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH. The conference will feature Dr. Ruben Puentedura, founder of Hippasus, an educational consulting firm. His work focuses on transforming education by combining a broad range of information technologies with novel educational approaches and rigorous metrics for the evaluation of results. He is involved with the Maine Learning Technology Initiative working with educators on the integration of pedagogy, technology and content. Registration and details at www.lfnh.org.

Poetry and Teaching Conference

The Frost Place's Conference on Poetry and Teaching is a unique opportunity for teachers to work closely with their peers and with a team of illustrious poets who have particular expertise and enthusiasm for sharing poetry with young people. Faculty poets present specific techniques for teaching poetry including sample exercises and prompts which teachers will be invited to try out and then discuss. Each day will offer sessions devoted to the participants sharing their own teaching ideas. Certificate of completion includes thirty-three Continuing Education credits. Graduate level credits are available through Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. For more information go to www.frostplace.org.

Barry Conservation Camp

Registration is underway for the 2012 summer camp programs for youth (boys and girls age 10-16) at Barry Conservation Camp in Milan, N.H. A weekly, overnight summer camp operated by the UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H Program and the N.H. Fish and Game Department, Barry Camp is perfect for youth who enjoy hands-on learning about outdoor skills and the environment. To select camp programs and register, visit <http://extension.unh.edu/4H/4HCamps.htm> or e-mail 4Hcamps@unh.edu or call 603-788-4961.

8th Annual Safe Kids 500 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway

Safe Kids NH is hosting their 8th annual Safe Kids 500 Event on Wednesday evening May 2nd at NH Motor Speedway. This is a free event for families. This event includes a chance to bike on the track, healthy snacks, educational handouts, and free bike and helmet safety checks. Please go to www.safekidsnh.org for more information, flyers, and access to pledge forms.

WILD New Hampshire Day

Kids and families are invited to Discover WILD New Hampshire Day on Saturday, April 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive in Concord. Admission is free. This is a great way to help connect kids to the outdoors. They can try archery, cast with the "Let's Go Fishing" program, and create wildlife arts and crafts. Sample a crispy fish fillet or build a bird house. Get great energy-saving ideas. See live animals and trained falcons. Browse exhibits by more than 35 outdoor, wildlife, environmental and conservation groups from around the state. Co-sponsored by the N.H. Fish and Game Department and the N.H. Department of Environmental Services. For more details, visit www.wildnh.com.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Project.

The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce an opportunity for your school districts to participate in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Completion Project. Research indicates that 90% of students who complete a FAFSA will enroll in postsecondary education. Through the project, participating districts will have access to FAFSA completion data and give students information about how to pursue a college education.

Districts with a single high school, including single high school rural districts, are invited to apply no later than May 1, 2012 for the opportunity of being selected through a randomized selection process. More information can be found at www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov.

Teacher Appreciation Night

The Manchester Monarchs will be hosting teacher appreciation night during the last home game of the season on Sunday April 15th at 3:00 p.m. The teacher appreciation offers teachers a discount as a thank you for the work they do in the classroom everyday. To order online go to www.monarchsjungle.com/teachers-appreciation-day or contact Bob McCaffrey at (603) 626-7825 ext. 6113.